

### Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (**Currently Amended**) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:

a light source for producing a coherent beam;

a first optical unit disposed in an optical path between said light source and a target workpiece to initially receive the coherent beam from said light source; and

a second optical unit disposed in an optical path between said first optical unit and the target workpiece to receive the coherent beam from said first optical unit;

wherein said first optical unit is disposed such that an entry point on said second optical unit and a starting point of a pointing vector of the coherent beam from ~~of~~ said light source and an exit face on said second optical unit are mutually conjugated with respect to said first optical unit.

Claim 2 (**Original**) The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said second optical unit is an optical beam forming unit.

Claim 3 (**Currently Amended**) The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein said optical beam forming unit is an optical element for making an ~~the~~ intensity distribution of the coherent beam uniform.

Claim 4 (**Original**) The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said first optical unit comprises at least two lenses.

Claim 5 (**Original**) The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said light source is a laser oscillator.

Claim 6 (**Currently Amended**) The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising at least a third optical unit in an optical path between said second optical unit and the target workpiece.

Claim 7 (**Currently Amended**) A laser irradiation apparatus comprising:-

a light source for producing a coherent beam;

a first optical unit disposed in an optical path between said light source and a target workpiece to initially receive the coherent beam from said light source;

a second optical unit disposed in an optical path between said first optical unit and the target workpiece to receive the coherent beam from said first optical unit; and

a third optical unit disposed in an optical path between said second optical unit and the target workpiece to receive the coherent beam from said second optical unit;

wherein said first optical unit focuses the said coherent beam between said first optical unit and said second optical unit, and a focal point of said second optical unit and an exit face-entry point on said third optical unit are mutually conjugated with respect to said second optical unit.

**Claim 8 (Original)** The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein said third optical unit is an optical beam forming unit.

**Claim 9 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein said optical beam forming unit is an optical element for making an the intensity distribution of the coherent beam uniform.

**Claim 10 (Original)** The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 9, wherein said second optical unit comprises at least two lenses.

**Claim 11 (Original)** The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 9, wherein said light source is a laser oscillator.

**Claim 12 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation apparatus as defined in Claim 9, further comprising at least a fourth optical unit in an optical path between said third optical unit and the target workpiece.

**Claim 13 (Currently Amended)** A laser irradiation method comprising;  
producing a coherent beam with from a light source;

adjusting the said coherent beam using a first optical unit and a second optical unit, the said-first optical unit being disposed in an optical path between the said-light source and the target workpiece to initially receive the coherent beam from the light source, and the said-second optical unit being disposed in an optical path between the said-first optical unit and the target workpiece to receive the coherent beam from the first optical unit; and

irradiating the coherent beam to the said target workpiece,;

wherein the said-first optical unit is disposed such that an entry point on said second optical unit and a starting point of a pointing vector of the coherent beam produced from the said light source and an exit face on the second optical unit are mutually conjugated with respect to the said-first optical unit.

**Claim 14 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the said-second optical unit is an optical beam forming unit.

**Claim 15 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 14, wherein the said-optical beam forming unit is an optical element for making an the intensity distribution of the coherent beam uniform.

**Claim 16 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 13, wherein the said-first optical unit comprises at least two lenses.

**Claim 17 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 13, further comprising adjusting the coherent beam using at least a third optical unit disposed in an optical path between the said-second optical unit and the target workpiece.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 13, wherein said irradiating of the coherent beam to the target workpiece laser-machines is laser machined in said irradiating the beam to said target workpiece.

**Claim 19 (Currently Amended)** A laser irradiation method comprising:

producing a coherent beam with ~~from~~ a light source;

adjusting the said-coherent beam using a first optical unit, a second optical unit, and a third optical unit, the said-first optical unit being disposed in an optical path between the said-light source and the target workpiece to initially receive the coherent beam from the light source, the said-second optical unit being disposed in an optical path between the said-first optical unit and the target workpiece to receive the coherent beam from the first optical unit, and the said-third optical unit being disposed in an optical path between the said-second optical unit and the target workpiece; and

irradiating the beam to the said-target workpiece;

wherein said adjusting of the said-coherent beam includes focusing the said coherent beam between the said-first optical unit and the said-second optical unit using the said-first optical unit, and

wherein a focal point of the second optical unit said coherent beam and an exit face-entry point on the said third optical unit are mutually conjugated with respect to the said second optical unit.

**Claim 20 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 19, wherein the said-third optical unit is an optical beam forming unit.

**Claim 21 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 20, wherein the said-optical beam forming unit is an optical element for making an the intensity distribution of the coherent beam uniform.

**Claim 22 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 19, wherein the said-second optical unit comprises at least two lenses.

**Claim 23 (Currently Amended)** The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 19, wherein the said-light source is a laser oscillator.

Claim 24 (**Currently Amended**) The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 19,  
further comprising adjusting the coherent beam using at least a fourth optical unit  
disposed in an optical path between the said-third optical unit and the target workpiece.

Claim 25 (**Currently Amended**) The laser irradiation method as defined in Claim 19,  
wherein said irradiating of the target workpiece laser-machines is laser machined in said  
step of irradiating the beam to said-target workpiece.